

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

## EMPLOYEES HONORED AT GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION

**Mike Williams**, Rehabilitation Therapy, and **India Francis**, Health Information Services, were honored for their years of service at the Governor's Long Term Employee Reception at the State House Rotunda in Indianapolis on August 19. They were among 299 state employees recognized for their long-term service representing 10,920 total years of state service. Both Mike and India received a picture frame with the reception date engraved as a memento. Also in attendance for the celebration were Cathe Fulcher, Superintendent, and Barbara Williams, Mike's wife who also works at ESH in the Dental Department.

Both Mike and India reminisced about the many changes they've witnessed at ESH over their years of service. With 40 years, Mike recalls working in the outer buildings that were known as L, F, & G buildings; they no longer exist today. Mike initially worked as a psychiatric attendant, employed at the age of 19. He remembers the units looking more like military barracks with rows of beds lined up from wall to wall. At that time, there were approximately 1300-1400 patients residing at

the hospital, separated by gender and at times housed by county. The therapies at the hospital included insulin, atropine, and ECT. He recalls that the hospital infirmary was always full. He has spent most of his service years in recreational therapy, assisting with rehabilitation programs since 1972. He maintained the bowling alley for over 25 years. He transferred to Vocational



India Francis and Mike Williams were honored at the Governor's Long Term Employee Recep-

Rehabilitation in 2000 and continues to assist patients with developing occupational skills for employment. He met his wife of 18 years, Barbara at ESH.

Celebrating 35 years, India also began employment as a psychiatric attendant in September, 1973. She had just planned on working one year, but plans changed and before long she was vested with 10 years service in the nursing department. She recalled the strict dress code in Nursing Service with employees wearing all white (white clothes, hose, and shoes). Nursing staff did not wear jewelry nor was hair allowed to be worn past the shoulders. India transferred from nursing to a unit secretary position working in Transitional Services (G & H building) from 1983-1988. She has worked the majority of her service years in Health Information Services, formerly known as Medical Records. She sometimes works overtime in the Dietary Department when needed. India has enjoyed working with the patients and fellow employees, where she has developed many lasting friendships.

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## PATIENT HIGHLIGHTS

### RAISE THE ROOF ENTERTAINS

On Saturday, August 16, 2008, the fifth annual spiritual celebration "Raise the Roof" was held at ESH. Patients, families, and staff were entertained with a variety of performances that included praise/worship songs, inspirational readings, dance, and prayer. Two ram's horns were blown to kick-off the event which was emceed by Steve Cruse, Assistant Superintendent. It was a special time of community and spiritual renewal.



*The Greater St. James Youth Choir performed at Raise the Roof.*



*An original performance was given by Daniel Hyman and his puppet.*

Community groups participating this year were the **Greater St. James Youth Choir**, **ABE Praise Band**, **Harmony**, **Daniel Hyman**, and the **Jewish Dance Troupe**. Special performances were also given by employee **Susan Trembczynski**, **Lori Willis Hyman**, and **ESH's Sweet Anointing Community Choir**. Several patients participated in the community choir as well as performed solos and duets. Event committee members were **Catherine Eversole**, **Liz Thomas**, **Molly Greene**, and **Susan Trembczynski**.

### MOCK ELECTION

A mock election was held in the Treatment Mall on May 6. The make-shift "polls" were open from 8:45-11:00 a.m. 45% of the patients came to cast their vote. "Absentee votes" were received from patients who were unable to leave their units. The votes were counted and the results were:

McCain 13

Obama 20

Clinton 40 (2-Reagan)

\*Did you know that ESH social work specialists assist our interested patients with registering to vote, voting at polls, and/or submitting absentee ballots?



### FALL FLING

Eight residents from Geriatric Services attended this year's **Fall Fling** on September 4th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. sponsored by Indiana Activity Directors and SWIRCA. The event which was previously named Harvest Moon Ball took on a more casual tone this year. Nonetheless, our residents were all gussied up. They had their hair fixed or touched up by **Linda Hadley**, ESH beautician. Clothing Room seamstress **Lucia Board** pressed all their clothes nicely. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments of cookies and soda and danced to the music by The Little Old Dam Band. Rehabilitation Therapy staff in attendance were **Elaine Burns**, **Terresa Austin**, **Kelly Kissel**, and **Julia Johnson**. A great time was had by all!

# HELPING HANDS



*U of E Freshman Class Members help Community Services with folding brochures and mass mailings.*

Kudos to University of Evansville Freshman Class Members *Craig Payton, Holli Campbell, Anna Rogers, Kristin Healey, Justin Elliott, Courtney Cochran*, and leaders *Megan Sicard and Kris Jones* for wrapping Christmas gifts and helping with brochures, mailings, and lawn care on Monday, August 25th. Approximately 325 incoming freshman participated in the annual service project promoting volunteer work in the community during UE's Welcome Week prior to the start of school.

## WELCOME VOLUNTEERS:

Erica Becker  
Megan Morgan  
Jana Russell  
Ashlee Sidener  
Nathan Stobaugh  
Loren Veazey  
Javon Washington-Brown

## THANK YOU DONORS!

Imogene Behagg  
Ann Collins  
Gibson County MHA  
Ins. Women of Evansville  
Good Shepherd UMC Women  
Lic's Deli & Ice Cream  
Logansport State Hospital  
Stephen Sheets  
Vanderburgh Co Fair Assn  
Tri Kappa  
Shepherd of the Hills  
St. Johns Church Buckskin  
Crossroads 2:42 Group  
Library Friends-Oakland City

## September/October

American Legion 10/7  
Friend to Friend 10/9  
Oak Hill Baptist Church  
10/11  
Fairlawn UM Church 9/14  
North Woods Church 9/21 &  
10/19  
Vigo Co MHA 9/23 & 10/28

## Christmas Program Needs:

- Chapstick
- Lipstick, eye shadow, blush
- Men's body wash and stick deodorant
- AA/AAA/C batteries
- Art/coloring marker kits
- Playing cards/dice games/puzzle books
- Gift wrap, tissue, bags



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 25**  
*Hope & Recovery*  
Dr. Frederick Frese  
7 PM Johnson Hall-Deaconess
- September 26**  
*2008 MHA Symposium*  
Mental Health Transformation  
8 AM Johnson Hall-Deaconess
- September 27**  
*Lifesavers Walk*  
9:15 AM ESH Campus  
Janie Chappell-812-471-4521
- September 27**  
*Friends of the Poor Walk*  
1:00 PM ESH Campus  
St. Vincent DePaul Society  
[www.svdpfriendsofthepoorwalk.org](http://www.svdpfriendsofthepoorwalk.org)

**6th Annual Simon Evening of Giving**  
**Sunday, November 23**  
**6:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**Eastland Mall**  
**Contact**  
**Community Services**  
**for \$10 tickets**

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION** is published every other month for friends of Evansville State Hospital. News items are welcome and should be submitted to the Community Services Office.

Newsletter contributors: Terri Morris, Susan Trembczynski, Jolene Hines, Elaine Burns, Michelle Martin



Editor: Theresa Arvin  
Evansville State Hospital  
3400 Lincoln Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47714  
(812) 469-6800, ext. 4970  
[Theresa.Arvin@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Theresa.Arvin@fssa.in.gov)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.IN.GOV](http://WWW.IN.GOV)

## Did You Know?

## SEPTEMBER IS...

### NATIONAL ALCOHOL & DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

Dependence on alcohol and/or drugs is a widespread health and social problem that affects as much as 69% of the country. In 2006, an estimated 22.6 million people aged 12 or older had a substance use disorder, meaning that they were dependent on or abusing alcohol and/or drugs, including prescription drugs.

In the 21st century, technology is playing a key role in substance use disorder prevention and addiction treatment. Today, you can search online and instantly find an extensive list of resources and locate providers immediately on an interactive map, read testimonials from people who are struggling with similar issues or have already overcome them, and find support in a sea of chat rooms and web sites. Youth-oriented social web sites are serving as a forum for developing skills and abilities to stay away from addictive substances, for realizing one has a problem, and for offering avenues toward unprecedented treatment methods such as "e-therapy" and "virtual support groups". Through the Internet, the number of available options for finding prevention, treatment, and recovery support services has grown exponentially. Visit [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov) and [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) to learn more.

**ACTIVE TREATMENT:** Active Treatment at ESH is based on individual client needs that are prioritized and then addressed accordingly. The goal is to improve or maintain an individual's functioning through acquiring skills and independence in life areas such as communication, socialization, general hygiene and self care, household tasks, and utilization of community resources. Staff are working to engage individuals in conversation, offering choice of activities, introducing leisure opportunities, reintroducing skills, offering validation, and reinforcing positive behaviors. Great job!

### GOODBYE

Tracy Arndell, Physical Plant  
Suzanne Darvalics, Security  
April Nellis, Nursing Service  
Lori Riley, Nursing Service  
Julia Russell, Nursing Service  
James Shofner, Physical Plant



### WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Curtis Brewer, Environmental Services  
Renee Chung, Psychology  
Julia Contrell, Nursing Service  
Terry Graham, Dietary  
Carol Hall, Nursing Service  
Brandy Head, Nursing Service  
Dr. Kari Kernek, Medical Staff  
Elizabeth May, Pharmacy  
Clifford Posey, Nursing Service  
Robert Racey, Physical Plant  
Kristina Rickard, Nursing Service  
Adria Rivers, Nursing Service  
Darin Rose, Nursing Service  
Barbara Skelton, Dietary  
Kristy Trinh, Nursing Service  
Donna West, Nursing Service  
Brittany Westfall, Nursing Service  
Tammy Wilder, Quality Management